

**International
Night
Deliciously
Executed
Page 1**

**Baseball
Team Hopes
To Be Above
.500
Page 2**

**"Twelfth
Night" A
Success
Page 1**

**Boys Volley-
ball on Their
Way Up
Page 4**



Glastonbury High School *Paladin*

Volume IV Issue VI

April 11, 1996

Glastonbury, Connecticut

FREE



Missy Merwin and Jessica Morrison sample some of the delicacies prepared by students

Gideon Welles Hosts International Night

by Roshni Aggaarwal and Karen Simmonds

What were you doing on the evening of March 20th? If you were not tasting scrumptious ethnic foods or experiencing interesting cultural performances, then you missed the Glastonbury Foreign Language Department held an International Night which celebrated cultures and languages. Several schools and clubs set up booths about foreign countries and presented skits, dances, songs, poems, and essays, while in the choir room people representing numerous countries told stories of their own cultures.

As people entered the cafeteria, a variety of exhibitions were there to enjoy and view, most providing food samples, beverages, or activities. Some of the highlights included nonalcoholic French wine, masking tissue paper flowers, making adinkra symbols at the Ghana booth, and glancing at art projects and reports made by foreign lan-

guage students of all ages.

While all this was going on, entertainment was provided in the auditorium. Some of the evenings speakers included Board of Education Chair Sue Galvin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ned Schofield, and Gideon Welles Principal Tom Russo. The entertainment included Flamenco dancing, poetry recitations, plays put on by elementary students as well as high school students, and Puerto Rican dancers. Also, in the choir room narrators told tales from Italy, Africa, Mexico, Ireland, and the Carribean.

The Cafeteria, Auditorium, and choir room were flooded with people. Among the comments made on the night were: "Intriguing and exhilarating!" and "Lots of Fun!". Overall, International Night turned out to be a success and was enjoyed by all.

"Twelfth Night" a Raging Success



Viola (Shannon Carnemolla) meets her mistaken suitor Sebastian (Ivan Smith) as Olivia (Beth Johnson) and the cast look on.



Sir Toby Belch (Jeremy Gerrard), Fabian (Tei Blow) and Sir Andrew (Jon DeBiasi) contemplate their trickery.



Bindfolded Malvolio (Jason Rhoades) being taunted by Feste the Fool (Rose Perruccio).

Balanced Attack Key To Boys Tennis Team

by Josh Pruce

With the spring season rapidly approaching, the GHS Boys Tennis team has come together for another exciting season. This season could be classified as "a rebuilding year" by some teams but this one is extremely balanced. Second year coach, Mark Dolan commented "This balance can help us throughout the season as we will be in many tight matches." These tight matches will be the difference in this year's season for the boys. If they win the close ones they can be possible CCC West champions but if they lose this could be a disappointing season for the boys.

This years team will be lead

by Senior captains Mark Tortora and Adam Essack. This years team is also full of rookies as thirteen new players joined the team this year. After one week of practices a partial starting line-up has been set for the season opener. Essack and Sophomores Russ Allen, Paris Jackson, Paul Fadakar and Dan Larson will play for the four top singles positions. The first doubles position will be filled by Tortora and team-leader, Senior Jeff Thompson. The second doubles spot is occupied by Junior Josh Pruce and Sophomore Josh Spiegelman. The third spot will be filled by numerous teams during the season and right now

two teams are fighting for the third spot. These two teams are the team of Senior Brendan Camilleri and Junior David Junker, and the team of Freshman's Jason Youmatz and Albert Song.

Coming into their first match the tennis team is ranked tenth in the preseason Hartford Courant poll. The boys first match is on Thursday, April 4 at four o'clock at GHS. They are playing the number one team in the Class S and M poll, Darien. This match promises to be one of the best this season for the boys. Watch the boys team this year because if they get hot they will be a CCC West division winner.

Inside:

Point/Counterpoint Page 2
The Two Minute Warning . Page 3
the final cut Page 4
Roving Reporter Page 3

Point Counterpoint

Gay Rights -- C.I. Debate and Beyond

Out, Out, Brief Homophobia

By Rebecca Lundin

"Marrying someone of the same sex is NOT the same as marrying someone of a different race!" cried an debater on *Oprah* who was against gay marriage rights (his opponent had argued a few seconds before that denying gays marriage rights was as unfair as outlawing interracial marriage). At that, a large portion of our CI class burst into applause and cheers. Our class is notorious for expressing its every opinion through applause, but never had such an ovation occurred during a *film*. The CI unit on gay rights, short as it was, fired up the fiercest class debate of the year.

However, the reaction to the *Oprah* film tends to stick out in my mind. Why? Because it was a revelation of how far the gay rights movement has to go. It struck me that gay rights cannot be won until a crucial point is understood. People must understand that the gay rights movement IS, in effect, a kind of civil rights movement—and thus it is quite similar to the events, peaking in the 1960's, which caused Afro-Americans to fight for their rights, such as the right to marry interracially.

It is quite understandable that people would think the color of one's skin and one's sexual preference are different issues, because, of course, they are! Race is a factor which affects a person's physical appearance, while sexual orientation is a matter of who a person is attracted to sexually. However, what really matters—what the gay-rights advocate was trying to point out—is that in both cases, the scenario is the same. In both cases, one group of people—Caucasians, straights, whatever—somehow decided once that because another group of people—Afro-Americans, gays, whatever—was in the minority and thus a little different, they were "wrong". Interracial marriages are

considered perfectly normal, fine, legal, and moral by most now—as opposed to gay marriages, which are outlawed in most states—because we are simply further along on the timeline of civil rights that on that of gay rights.

"But there's a difference," many may protest. "No matter what race you are, it's normal. Homosexual is just—wrong. It's not the way things were meant to be." But just think a minute. If, forty years ago somewhere in the south, there was a civil rights unit, how much of a debate would there be? Most likely there would be one as intense as what occurred in CI this March. This is because in both instances, the opponents are victims of ignorance. Just as racism was—and unfortunately, still is in many places—a part of life, today we are taught that homosexuality is wrong, sick or unnatural. Usually, we don't even question "why?" Of course we will not admit we are ignorant or brainwashed—either we don't realize it or we deny it. But it is there—the fear, the disgust, the anger that erupts whenever people see gays on TV or discuss homosexual issues in-depth.

In order for there to be any progress in gay rights, people must be educated. One 3-week long gay rights unit in CI is not enough. We must learn that homosexuals are just as worthy human beings as straights. That they are not all child molesters or AIDS infectors. That they ARE out there: gays are a "silent", but present, minority. Doubtless, there are many homosexuals right in this school. In order to stop the senseless physical and emotional turmoil that they and America's millions—yes, millions—of other gays go through each year, we must stop the ignorance and hate, and begin educating the masses and preaching tolerance.

The Right Point of View

By Shane Igo

In the past few decades there has been a movement in America for "Gay Rights." Most of the intentions behind this have been valid. However, there is a line to be drawn dealing with the extent of the impact of the movement.

Let me just start by saying that by no stretch of the imagination am I condoning violence against gays, nor am I promoting job discrimination, housing discrimination for large complexes, or discrimination by sodomy laws. I find it appalling when a person can be fired for any reason other than job performance. I also find the sodomy laws in Rhode Island and Georgia disgusting. In both states, breaking this law is punishable with up to 20 years in prison. (If you do not know what sodomy is, look it up)

However, there is a difference between allowing homosexuals to deal with their own lifestyle, which does not effect the rest of society, and setting up a government institution that condones their actions.

America is a Christian society and was created with those values. I personally view homosexuality as a sin. Because of that, I do not believe that the behavior should be promoted. However, we are all sinners. Jesus said that the most important thing in the

world is love. Because of that, we should not chastise, torture, and abuse gays. However, we should not condone the behavior either. By allowing homosexual marriages to be legally recognized, the government is approving of their lifestyle.

However, we should do things to decrease the hostility toward this minority group. Individuals should be more knowledgeable about the problems faced by gays. They can also take personal responsibility for stopping someone who is abusing a homosexual. Even places like "Your Turf", a support group for gay youth, seem to be good ideas. Unlike one of the examples in a recent CI video, Glastonbury should not have "Friday night football, and Saturday night gay bashing."

The current laws that support people from abuse should be utilized in order to end the senseless abuse. However, there should not be any special rights given to this group because of their chosen lifestyle. Recently, there has been a push in some churches to become "open and affirming." In Glastonbury, The First Church decided they wanted to agree with it. They made the decision that I feel America should make. They decided not to be "open and affirming," but "open and welcoming."

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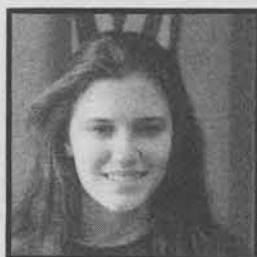
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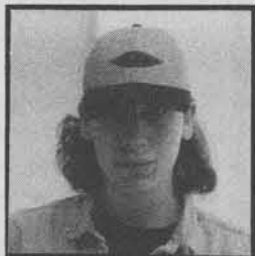
Do you feel that homosexual couples have the right to adopt children?



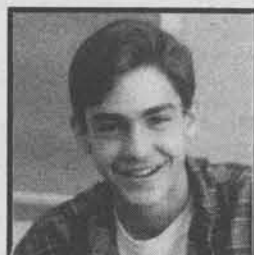
"No, the child may end up with a ton of psychological problems."-Jon Krazit '97



"No, because I believe that it destroys America's values and morals. The traditional family structure should be abolished."-Melissa Iskrzak '97



"I believe that a child needs both sexes to raise him properly instead of just one dominant sex."-Bill Laurenitis '97



"As long as the child has a stable childhood, I don't see a problem."-Ryan Sansavera '97



"A loving environment is all that matters."-Jen Smith '97

Baseball Looking for a Winning Season

by Eric Stein

With the arrival of spring it is once again baseball season and the Tomahawks appear ready to have an exciting season. Coach Ted Olczak said, "If we get some pitching we're looking for a good year." The Tomahawks will be led by Senior co-captains Sean Wolters and Josh McGrath. Both McGrath and Wolters have been starting on the varsity since their sophomore year.

As with almost any baseball team, pitching is the key to success and this Tomahawk team is no different. Coach Olczak said, "We have better hitting and defense than last year, so pitching will be the definitely be the key." Anchoring the pitching staff will be the trio of seniors Scott Chapman, Rob Tyrol, and Bryan Welsh.

Coach Olczak also is looking for Junior Jason Murphy and Sophomore Matt Izbicki to contribute to the varsity staff.

Captain Sean Wolters will be playing in the outfield while the other captain Josh McGrath will be at third base. Senior Edwin Colon will handle the catching duties for the Tomahawks. Coach Olczak describes Colon as "one of the best catchers in the league." Juniors Mike Wilchinski and Josh Proctor will be playing first and second base respectively. Rounding out the infield will be either Junior Tim Shannon or Sophomore Christo Baldwin who will be playing at shortstop for the Tomahawks.

If the Tomahawks get some consistent pitching they should be looking forward to a successful season.

The Two-Minute Warning

By Josh Pruett

As spring approaches, football season starts up again. O.K., so it's not the NFL, but rather Arena Football. This year is Connecticut's second season in the league and they look to improve on a disappointing first year record. For those of you who don't know, arena football is played on a fifty yard field and the goal posts are nine feet apart and fifteen feet high. There are no punts in arena football as you either have to score a touchdown or attempt a field goal. As you can probably imagine from the explanation, the scoring is very high, as the average combined score in a game is eighty-four points. Last year the Connecticut Coyotes only won one game, and that was a road game. The Coyotes have made some wholesale changes to make this a successful season.

The Coyotes have changed their coach this year from last year's coach, Rick Buffington to an arena bowl championship coach from Orlando. Buffington was not a good coach as he lacked the strategic knowledge and football savvy to coach. Numerous times last year Buffington made poor play calls and

took needless time-outs just to slow the game down. Buffington was not a crowd favorite as he was booed off the field numerous times and was constantly heckled. The Coyotes management realized that Buffington was not a winner and made a move to pick up an experienced coach. They came up with a past Arena Bowl championship coach from Orlando, who looks to be a key part to the Coyotes success this year.

For you sport fans out there who complain about the high price of tickets, you can go see the Coyotes. Good seats can be purchased for around fifteen dollars and for three hours of entertainment that is not a bad price. Also, for all of you who believe that this is not as exciting as pro football, you are wrong. Arena Football is all of the best parts of pro football thrown on a smaller field. The first game is on April 12 at the Hartford Civic Center and tickets can be purchased there. So, if you're looking for something to do on a hot Friday summer night, check out the Connecticut Coyotes.

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Volleyball Coach Predicts State Championship

by Christine Biscotti

This year's GHS boys volleyball team looks to be one of the strongest in the history of GHS. Not only do they have five returning seniors, Emil Reeve-Howe, Daniel Carter, Ben Shambaum, and Co-Captains Ryan Miller and Shane Igo. This season the team also has a new assistant coach, Pat Ryan.

Coach Pat Ryan has been playing volleyball since 1977. He coaches and plays on his own team which has been to the U.S. National Championships eleven times. During this time, Coach Ryan has been gaining experience with top national volleyball technical directors. He plans on using the most up-to-date methods of teaching in the practices. Coach Ryan said, "Drills will include more than one skill because we want to simulate game situations when we practice. There will be stress on everybody having good all-around skills." Coach Ryan doesn't know how long he'll be staying with the team, "I'll stay as long as I'm needed," he remarked. For now he assists in coaching both JV and Varsity and will serve as a strategic coach for the team.

The strength of the team is further enhanced by Juniors Hanching Fuh, Chuck Rooney, Andy Pakora, and Sophomore Ben Miller. Almost all of the varsity players did not return to the court cold. They have been playing volleyball almost every weekend throughout the winter in Junior Olympic Volleyball tournaments. Playing other

highly competitive players in the state has provided a lot of experience and knowledge to the members of the GHS volleyball team.

The team has shown a lot of strength and all-around ability. Coach Steve Geryk said about the team, "After one week, I'm impressed with how good their skills are. They're a lot further ahead than ever before." After observing a few practices, the team's most potent strength lies in their hitting and blocking. Hitters Igo, Reeve-Howe, Pakora, and B. Miller have demonstrated that their abilities have greatly improved since last year. This year's team looks to dominate the offensive part of their games at the net. However, their defensive game demonstrates a need for improvement. Geryk says what the team needs most is "to make as few mistakes as possible defensively." Once they get that to the level of their hitting, the team will be able to completely dominate over the teams of the CCC West, with a few exceptions.

The team is expecting Newington and Bloomfield to be their toughest competition. Last year they proved that they could beat Newington. However, they lost all three matches to Bloomfield. But this year, with the team's playing experience and good coaching techniques, they should be able to go far. Coach Ryan says about the team, "There is no reason that this team shouldn't win the state championships this year."



the final cut

By Jason Hoyer

The NCAA basketball tournament remains the most exciting postseason in all of sports. The tournament is the ultimate equalizer for college basketball programs and those who are successful leave the mark of a true champion.

Where else can Dontae Jones become a household name, little known Western Kentucky play even with powerhouse Purdue, Princeton best UCLA in more than academics, John Wallace fatten his forthcoming NBA contract by a few million, and two Italian coaches (UMass's John Calipari and Kentucky's Rick Pitino) soak up the press?

Only in what we all have come to know and love as March Madness.

Unfortunately, March Madness has some aspects that drive people truly mad. At the top of that list, of course, would be the suspect television coverage by CBS and the commentary done on ESPN. After so many tournaments, one would think that the television industry would know how to handle covering so many games. Yet, once again, CBS blew their only intact sports coverage of any kind.

For starters, with so many games, CBS had a few weak

announcer teams. At the root of the problem was Al McGuire, for whom the game has simply passed by. Equally disappointing was the Final Four team of Jim Nance and Billy Packer. Packer, easily CBS's best color man, was not very objective during the Final Four, and the National Final telecast of Syracuse and Kentucky was poorly announced. Packer failed to point out a number of bad officiating calls (on both sides) and generally didn't make note of the fact that while most people were expecting a Kentucky blowout, they were witnessing a quality contest. Pat O'Brien, the station's anchor throughout the tournament, was not nearly as informative or as knowledgeable as NBC's Bob Costas or ABC's Al Michaels.

CBS also failed in early-round coverage. In the Midwest part of the country, CBS had the tenacity to pull viewers from the Georgia-Syracuse closing minute to show the start of another game. The viewers only missed what was easily the best game of the tournament, an 83-81 overtime Syracuse win on the strength of a Wallace three pointer with two seconds to go in OT.

In addition, CBS stayed with their local games far too long. Why not leave a 20 point blow-out to show a more competitive game? CBS only pulled a local game when the other games had reached their final minute, thus not providing any real coverage of those games at all.

For commentary, ESPN was barely worth watching, for one simple, unavoidable reason: Dick Vitale. This guy just doesn't understand that his act has been old since about 1989. He constantly interrupted Digger Phelps, who it should be noted was about the only guy who had Syracuse and Mississippi State doing well. Vitale and anchor Chris Fowler were loud, obnoxious, and not very accurate in their analysis.

This poor performance on the media end, as well as pointedly bias UConn coverage in *The Hartford Courant*, was frustrating for the college basketball fans, but nothing can diminish the well-played and exciting games which culminated in Kentucky earning its first national title since 1978, completing an amazing season that matched equally high expectations as the nation's top team.

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